

Appl. No. : 10/661,853
Filed : September 12, 2003

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 25, 2005.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of the application, including notation of the erroneous application serial numbers contained in the specification portion of the application. Applicant has requested correction of the specification herein to correct these errors.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 1-9 of Applicant's co-pending Application Serial No. 10/941,386. Applicant asserts that Claims 1-5, 11-12 and 18-25 of this application are patentably distinct from the claims of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/941,386. Applicant notes that newly presented Claims 10-19 of the co-pending application are directed to the features of the invention illustrated in Figures 7-9 of the present application, namely a gaming machine with a rotatable button panel and a recessed player input area. On the other hand, the claims herein are directed to the features illustrated in Figures 3-6, namely a gaming machine with a rotating display. For the reasons that these claims are directed to distinct inventions, Applicant asserts that the claims are patentably distinct.

Claims 1-12 and New Claims 18-35

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McKay et al. (USPN 5,813,914). The Examiner further rejected Claims 2, 8-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKay et al. in view of Tode et al. (USPN 6,201,532),

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rejected Claims 4-5 and 10 over McKay et al. in view of Luciano (USPN 6,814,518), and rejected Claims 6-7 over McKay et al. in view of Bennett (USPN 5,586,936).

Independent Claims 1 and 18 are directed to a gaming machine having a display which is movable between a first position and a second position over an opening which provides access to an interior of the gaming machine. This aspect of the invention is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. In this configuration, the display (and/or its associated bezel) essentially acts as a "door" which controls access to the interior of the gaming machine.

This is contrary to prior art gaming machine configurations where a panel, such as a lid or door, is movable between a first and second position to provide access to the door. McKay et al. is exemplary of the prior art. McKay et al. discloses a gaming machine having a rotatable lid 26. The lid 26 is movable between a closed position (Figure 1 of McKay) and a raised, open position (Figure 3 of McKay). Notably, in this configuration, the display 28 is fixed and remains located within the interior of the gaming machine. As indicated, Claims 1 and 18 recites a gaming machine which is distinctly different than McKay et al. in that Claims 1 and 18 are directed to a gaming machine having a display movable between first and second positions relative to an opening, and not a lid portion movable relative to a fixed display.

Relative to the rejection of Claims 2, 8-9 and 11-12 over McKay et al. in further view of Tode et al., Applicant acknowledges that Tode et al. does disclose a bezel, but notes that Tode et al.'s base configuration is similar to that of McKay et al. and the prior art: Tode et al. discloses a configuration

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where a lid of the gaming machine moves up and down to provide access to the interior of the gaming machine, and the display is fixed.

Similarly, relative to the rejections of Claims 4-5 and 10 in further view of Luciano and Claims 6-7 over McKay et al. in view of Bennett, Applicant asserts that these combinations of references do not disclose the claimed subject matter when the base reference, McKay et al., does not disclose the basic recited gaming machine having a movable display, as detailed above.

Moreover, Applicant asserts that Claims 2-5 and 18-20 dependent upon Claim 1, as well as Claims 22-25 dependent upon Claim 18, are allowable for the reason they define independently patentable subject-matter.

Relative to Claims 2 and 23, Applicant asserts that the prior art does not disclose an arrangement where a display is rotatably connected to the gaming machine and is positioned between the cabinet and a bezel. In Tode et al., referred to by the Examiner in the rejection of Claim 2, the display is not mounted for movement and moreover, the display is not mounted between the cabinet and the bezel. In Tode et al., the bezel is fixed in position on a lid, and the lid is movable relative to a fixed display.

Relative to Claims 3-5 and 23, Applicant asserts that the prior art does not disclose providing a gaming controller accessible through an opening behind a movable display, or the mounting of the gaming controller on a movable platform. As indicated by the Examiner relative to the rejection of Claims 4 and 5, Luciano does not even disclose a controller platform. Further, the movable controller platform is not obvious when considering prior art gaming machine designs where the

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entire lid or door opened. In accordance with the invention, as illustrated in Figure 2, when the display is rotated outwardly of the console, an angled approach to the interior of the gaming machine through the opening behind the display is provided. The movable controller platform permits the controller to be moved into an angular position aligned with the angled opening approach. Such a design is not suggested in the prior art where direct access to the interior of the machine is provided through an opened lid or door.

Relative to Claims 18-19 and 24-25, Applicant asserts that the prior art does not disclose or suggest mounting a display upon pins, thus permitting the display to be rotated relative to a surrounding support structure, or a stop which limits movement of the display relative to that support structure. As indicated, McKay and Tode et al. disclose gaming machines with fixed displays, and thus do not disclose rotatable pin mounts as claimed.

Claims 13-17

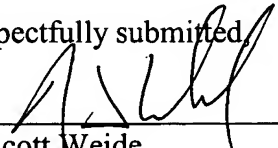
Applicant has canceled Claims 13-17 in order to present additional claims directed to the "display as a door" aspect of the invention described above. Applicant asserts that Claims 13-17 are allowable over the prior art (Applicant asserts that the prior art does not teach or suggest providing a ticket output into a coin bowl, among other things), but has elected to pursue claims to this aspect of the invention in another application.

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Applicant thus asserts that Claims 1-5, 11-12, and 18-25 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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Respectfully submitted,



R. Scott Weide
Registration No. 37,755
Weide & Miller, Ltd.
Bank West Building, 5th Floor
7251 West Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 530
Las Vegas, NV 89128
(702) 382-4804 (Pacific time)